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1868-03-01

Letter from John Muir to Merrill Moores, 1868 Mar

John Muir

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[Original letter returned to Miss M. Merrill]

[New York, March, 1868].

My dear Merrill [Moore]:

It is just about a year since I learned to know your step in Mr. Sutherland's hall. Your pleasant Irving readings had much to do in procuring me the enjoyments that I have feasted upon in Cuba and the South. It seems long since I saw you, Merrill, though it is only six or seven months since we were together in the west. You would have been delighted with the big white topped waves that we saw on our sail to New York. Our little vessel climbed up and down among them in gallant style. She was loaded with Havana oranges. I am sure you would like the cocoa palms of Cuba and the long evergreen vines. Do you remember the feather description of the cocoa leaves. I wish you could see them, they might make anyone take a stammer-fever in trying to describe them. You could easily walk with me now, and in Cuba you might have been always before me, as in Wisconsin you were always behind, but I am getting strong since I came to the cool winds of Cape Hatteras and Sandy Hook.

I suppose you have enjoyed your school lessons this winter. Indiana winds will soon be warm, and the flowers will come to you again. I hope you will visit them sometimes. Goodbye, my boy. I hope you will always be good. I shall not see you for a long time.

[John Muir]